

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE

HOPEWELL

OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

UNION CHURCH FAYETTE CO., ALA.

October 15, 16 and 17, 1897.

OFFICERS.

G. W. NORRIS, - - - - MODERATOR.

L. M. WIMBERLEY, - - - - CLERK.

The next session of this Association will be held with Pleasant Ridge Church, commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1898.

VERNON, ALA.
LAMAR DEMOCRAT PRINTING CO.
1897.

Received of L. M. Wimberley \$7.00 for printing 100 of these minutes. LAMAR DEMOCRAT PUB. CO.

MINUTES,

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Friday, October, 15th, 1897.

1. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. C. Nabors from Gen. 49th, ch, later clause of 10th, v. "And unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

2. After an intermission of one hour, the delegates re-assembled in the house; called the churches and enrolled the names of the delegates, as the table will show.

3. Elected G. W. Norris Moderator, and L. M. Wimberley Clerk.

4. Opened the door of the Association for the reception of churches. None offered.

5. Appointed a committee of arrangement, viz: J. C. Chandler, G. W. Berry, and F. M. McCool, with the Moderator and Clerk.

6. Appointed a committee on finance, viz: T. J. Brock and S. J. Norris.

7. Appointed a committee on preaching, viz: J. D. Spencer, W. A. Dyer, J. A. Awtrey, J. T. Livingston, D. L. Evans, David Moore, H. Mitchell, E. South, A. J. Brown, J. C. Chandler and S. H. Hankins.

8. Appointed C. H. Davis to write a letter of correspondence to sister Associations.

9. Arranged Union meetings as follows: The 1st district to convene with Harmony church, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1898. The 2nd district with Emmaus church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August 1898.

10. Called for correspondence from Sister Associations, and received from Lost Creek a letter and a bundle of minutes by her messengers, J. W. Aldridge, J. M. Barton, and W. S. Poe. From Buttchatchie a letter and bundle of minutes by her messengers, M. Mordcai, C. D. Sorrels, W. Dean, and A. J. Moore. From Pilgrims Rest, a bundle of minutes by her messengers, A. J. Col-

man, J. C. Nabors, and Green Carver.

11. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Elder C. H. Davis.

Saturday, October, 16th, 1897;

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder W. R. Brown.

12. Called the roll and found a quorum present.

13. Called for the bill of arrangement, presented, read, adopted and the committee discharged.

14. Read the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum of the Association.

15. Invited bretheren in the ministry to seats with us.

16. Called on the committee on preaching, who reported that W. R. Brown and J. C. Nabors preach in the forenoon, and L. M. Wimberley and A. J. McWhirter in the afternoon.

17. Appointed correspondence as follows: To Pilgrims Rest, S. J. Norris, H. M. Bankston, F. M. McCool, J. D. Spencer, W. P. Williamson, and W. Dorris. To Buttahatchie, J. C. Chandler, A. T. Chandler, F. M. McCool, J. T. Livingston, L. M. Wimberley, W. Dorris, W. A. Dyer. To Little Hope, S. J. Norris, J. D. Spencer, and C. H. Davis. To Lost Creek, S. G. Hamilton, W. M. Ward, J. W. Brock, J. A. Lucas, C. H. Davis and G. W. Berry. To Little Black, L. M. Wimberley and J. C. Chandler.

18. Agreed that the next convening of this body be with Pleasant Ridge church, Tuscaloosa county, Alabama, commencing on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1898.

19. Appointed L. M. Wimberly Treasurer.

20. Called on the committee on finance, who reported: Contributions this year \$15.60. In the hands of the Treasurer \$3.60.

21. Appointed the clerk to superintend the printing of the minutes and have 400 copies printed, reserve for correspondence, and distribute the remainder among the churches.

22. Compensated the clerk \$8,00 for his services.

23. Requested the moderator to tender the thanks of this body to the brethern and friends of this vicinity for their kindness to us while with them.

24. Appointed L. M. Wimberly, C. H. Davis and G. W. Norris to preach on Sunday.

25. Called for the letter of correspondence, which was presented by the writer, read, received and ordered inserted in the minutes.

26. Opened the door of the Association for promiscuous business.

27. Appointed the clerk to prepare suitable obituary notices to the memory of Elders W. S. Norris R. F. Papi-son deceased, and have the same printed in this minute,

28, Read the minutes for correction,

29, Adjourned to the time and place of our next session,

G, W, NORRIS, Moderator,

L, M, WIMBERLY, Clerk;

The brethern appointed to preach on Sunday appeared in the order of their names, and addressed a very large attentive audience, with unusual liberty, and, much we hope, to the consolation and spiritual growth of the children of God,

CLERK,

Corresponding Letter:

The Hopewell Old School Baptist Association, in her Thirteenth Annual Session, to her Sister Associations with whom she corresponds, GREETING:

Very dear Sisters:—Through the kindness and mercy of God, we are again permitted to meet again with Union church, Fayette county Ala., and we are happy to state that the business of our body is progressing harmoniously, for which we feel thankful to the great author of peace, Dear Sisters your correspondence were all cordially received, though not as full as we desire, and would

say that we not only desire a continuance of the same, but, let us try by the help of God, to increase our correspondence in the future. The next session of our body will convene with the Pleasant Ridge church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., on Friday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1898, where and when we hope to meet your friendly correspondence again. Dear Sisters remember us at a throne of God's grace,

G. W. NORRIS. Moderator,

L. M. WIMBERLY, Clerk,

CONSTITUTION.

1, The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the churches in our Union, who, on producing letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats,

2, Letters from the different Churches are to express their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated or dead since the last Association,

3, The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known as the Hopewell Old School Baptist Association who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches in our Union, but shall merely be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the common benefit of all such churches; but the Association shall have power to exclude any church from the Union who shall violate or deviate from the rules of the orthodox principles of the Gospel,

4, Every church in the Union shall be entitle to three messengers, and should any church fail or neglect to represent herself, she shall state the reason of such failure in her next letter to the Association,

5 New churches may be admitted into the Union who shall petition by letter and messengers, and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received, and the reception thereof manifested by the moderator giving the right hand.

6. The Association when convened shall be governed by regular proper rules of Decorum, which it is authorized to form for itself.

7. The Association shall appoint a moderator from among its members, for the time being, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum be observed and take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly

brought before it; also, a clerk shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of their proceedings.

8. Every query sent by a particular church must be enclosed in her letters, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not; in which case the Association shall take it under consideration, and give its advice.

9. Queries which immediately concern the Union or the State of the churches at large, when sent by a particular church as from them, or handed in by proper motion and seconded, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as opportunity will permit.

10. The Association shall have a fund for the support of the same, which shall be supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, whose duty it shall be to send it by the hands of her messengers, which moneys shall be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, who shall be accountable to the Association for all moneys by him received.

11. The clerk shall keep a file of the minutes of each year's proceedings, which shall serve as a record for the Association,

12. The Association in all cases shall be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. The Association shall correspond with other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

14. The Association shall at her first session appoint a committee consisting of one from each church represented (Ministers excepted) whose duty it shall be to arrange preaching until the next Association is organized, and if advised by the Association, appoint a brother to write a circular letter for the next year, which rule shall be observed at every session thereafter.

15. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of its proceedings.

16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two-thirds of the churches composing the Association may deem it necessary.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, signed by the moderator and attested by the clerk, before the Association arises,

18. Resolved, That we will not hold in our union any church or churches, who hold in their fellowship any member or members who will not renounce every secret order or clan—political or religious—whether past present or to come, or that claims or expresses by word or act any interest therein, directly or indirectly, whether for

oath or honor's sake, or personal interest or paternal advantage of such, whether at home or abroad, sick or well, in adversity or prosperity, or in any condition, or for any cause not herein mentioned; we must not, we can not, we will not fellowship or commune with them.

→ RULES OF DECORUM. ←

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. But one person shall speak at a time; and shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject, or uses words of personal reflection.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person making it, and if there are two or more motions before the Association at the same time, and on the same subject the first shall have the preference.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be disposed of before another is offered.

6. When anything is taken up by the Association, after allowing reasonable time for debates, the moderator shall take the question, and those in favor of the thing proposed rise to their feet, and those against it shall keep their seats. The decision thus made shall be announced immediately.

7. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave, nor shall any person be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with.

9. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing each other.

10. The moderator shall be entitled to the same liberty of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to fill the chair while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reprov'd as the Association may think proper.

Articles of Faith With Scriptural Proofs

1. We believe in one only true and living God: The

Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one. Proof: "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God; and the word was God." John 1:1. "For there are three that bear record in Heaven—the Father, the Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one." John 5:7.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God; and the only rule of faith and practice. Proof: "For the prophecy came not in the old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2nd Peter 1:21. "All scriptures is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2nd Tim. 3:16—17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, Proof: "According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Eph. 1:4. "Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called and whom He called, them He justified, and whom He justified them He also glorified." Rom. 8:30.

4. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is incapable of recovering himself there from. Proof: "No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." John 6:44. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the Leopard his spots? Then ye may also do good that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremirah 13:3.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Proof: "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2nd Cor. 5:21.

6. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away. Proof; "And I gave unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." John 10:28. "For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye appear with him in glory." Col. 3:3—4.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Proof: "For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts

2:39. "Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose, and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2nd Tim. 1:19.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgment, and the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal. Proof: "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28. "Because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world, by that man whom he hath ordained." Acts 17:31.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion in water is the mode, and that persons administering the ordinances, who differ from the foregoing either in faith or practice are by us not regarded as legal. Proof: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus, also being baptized, and praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him and a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22. "Jesus took bread and blessed and brake it, and gave it to His disciples, and said: 'Take, eat, this is My body and He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying drink ye all of it.'" Mat. 26:26-27.

10. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the Presbytery. Proof: "The Holy Ghost said separate me, Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them, and when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them they sent them away." Acts. 13:2-3. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." 1st Tim. 4:14.

11. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a right to commune at the Lord's table, nor can we, as an Association acknowledge as valid the administration of any other denomination, be their profession or mode what it may. Proof: "We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle." Heb. 10:13. From the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; to the people shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

OBITUARY.

The painful duty devolves upon us to record the death of our much esteemed brethren and Elders, W. S. Norris and R. F. Papisan. Not being furnished with the correct dates, will have to omit stating the birth and death of brother Norris, but, suffice it to say, that he professed a hope in the merits of Christ, and joined the Primitive Baptist church at Nazareth about the date of 1868, and soon afterwards was ordained to the ministry, and continued in ably setting forth, and contending for, and defending the doctrine of salvation by grace until his death, which occurred during the year 1896.

Elder Papisan was born May 3rd, 1839, and died Aug. 10, 1897. He, in the early part of his life, joined the Missionary denomination and remained with them a number of years, when he became dissatisfied and turned from them and joined the Primitive Baptist at Nazerath about the date of 1875, soon after which he exhibited evidences of the burden of the gospel, and was soon set apart to the work of the ministry in which work he continued while he lived.

Resolved, That we, as a brotherhood do sincerely sympathize with the companion and children in their loss and at the same time believe that their loss is their father's eternal gain.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

| CHURCHES | PASTORS | DELEGATES | Annual Meetings. | Sabbath Meetings. | Baptized. | Rec'd by Letter. | Dismissed by Letter. | Excluded. | Restored. | Deceased. | Total Number. | Contributions. |
|--------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1ST DISTRICT. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nazarath. | G. W. Norris. | G. W. Norris, S. J. Norris, J. D. Spencer. | Sept 22. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 2. | 38 | 2.00 |
| Pleasant Ridge. * | D. T. Moore. | W. A. Dyer. | July 44. | 4. | 2. | 2. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 15 | 1.00 |
| Zion. | J. M. Carver. | W. Dorris, J. A. Awtrej, F. M. McCool. | Aug. 33. | 3. | 3. | 3. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 22 | 2.00 |
| Mt. Zion. | C. H. Davis. | J. F. Davis, J. T. Livingston. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 2. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 10 | .85 |
| Liberty Hill. | W. R. Brown. | W. R. Brown, S. Hamilton. D. L. Evans. | Sept 44. | 2. | 3. | 3. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 28 | 1.50 |
| Harmony. | C. H. Davis. | Represented by letter and contribution | Aug. 44. | 4. | 2. | 2. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 29 | 1.50 |
| 2ND DISTRICT. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hopewell. | G. W. Norris. | C. H. Davis, H. Mitchell, G. W. Berry. | Aug. 33. | 2. | 4. | 4. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 28 | 1.50 |
| Union. | " " | W. M. Ward, J. H. Lucas, E. South. | Aug. 11. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 35 | 2.00 |
| Little Hope. | J. W. Brock. | A. J. Brown, T. J. Brock, J. W. Brock. | Aug. 22. | 2. | 2. | 2. | 2. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 19 | 1.00 |
| Emmaus. | L. M. Wimberley | L. M. Wimberley, J. C. & A. T. Chandler. | July 44. | 4. | 4. | 4. | 4. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 20 | 1.50 |
| New Hope. | J. W. Brock. | Represented by contribution. | 4. | 4. | 4. | 4. | 4. | 1. | 1. | 1. | 13 | .75 |